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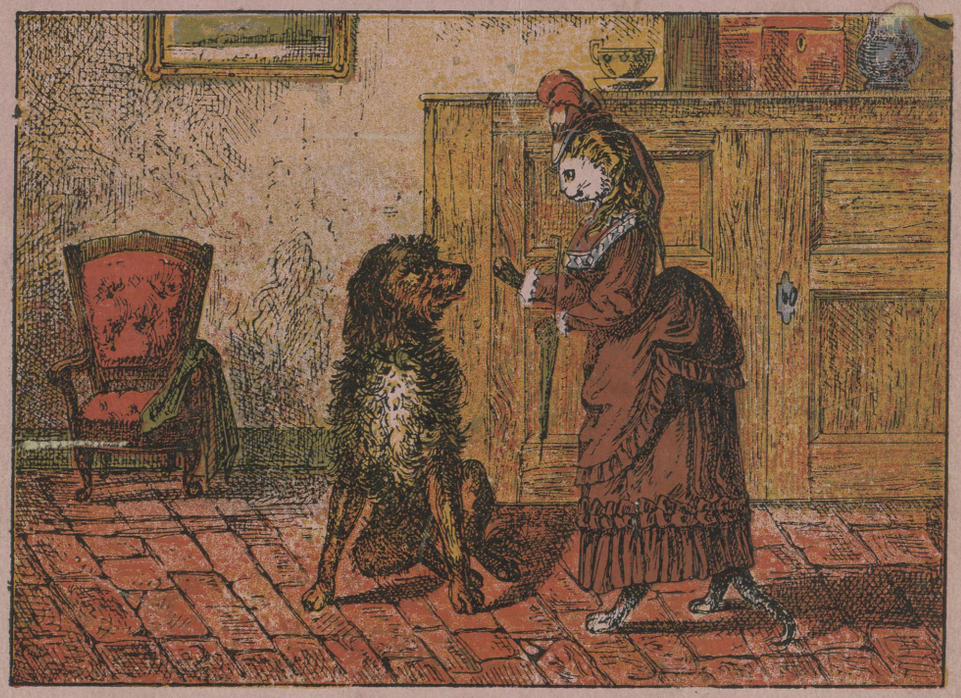
# DAME TROT And her Cat



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# DAME TROT
AND
# HER CAT.

DAME TROT once went down to a neighbouring fair,
And what do you think that she bought herself there?
A Pussy! the prettiest ever was seen;
No cat was so gentle, so clever, and clean.

Each dear little paw was as black as a sloe,
The rest of her fur was as white as the snow;
Her eyes were bright green, and her sweet little face
Was pretty and meek, full of innocent grace.

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Dame Trot hurried home with this beautiful cat;
Went upstairs to take off her cloak and her hat;
And when she came down was astonished to see
That Pussy was busy preparing the tea.

"Oh, what a strange cat!" thought poor little Dame Trot,
"She'll break my best china and upset the pot!"
But no harm befell them: the velvety paws
Were quite sure; the Dame for alarm had no cause.

Next morning when little Dame Trot came downstairs
To attend, as usual, to household affairs,
She found that the kitchen was swept up as clean
As if Puss a regular servant had been.

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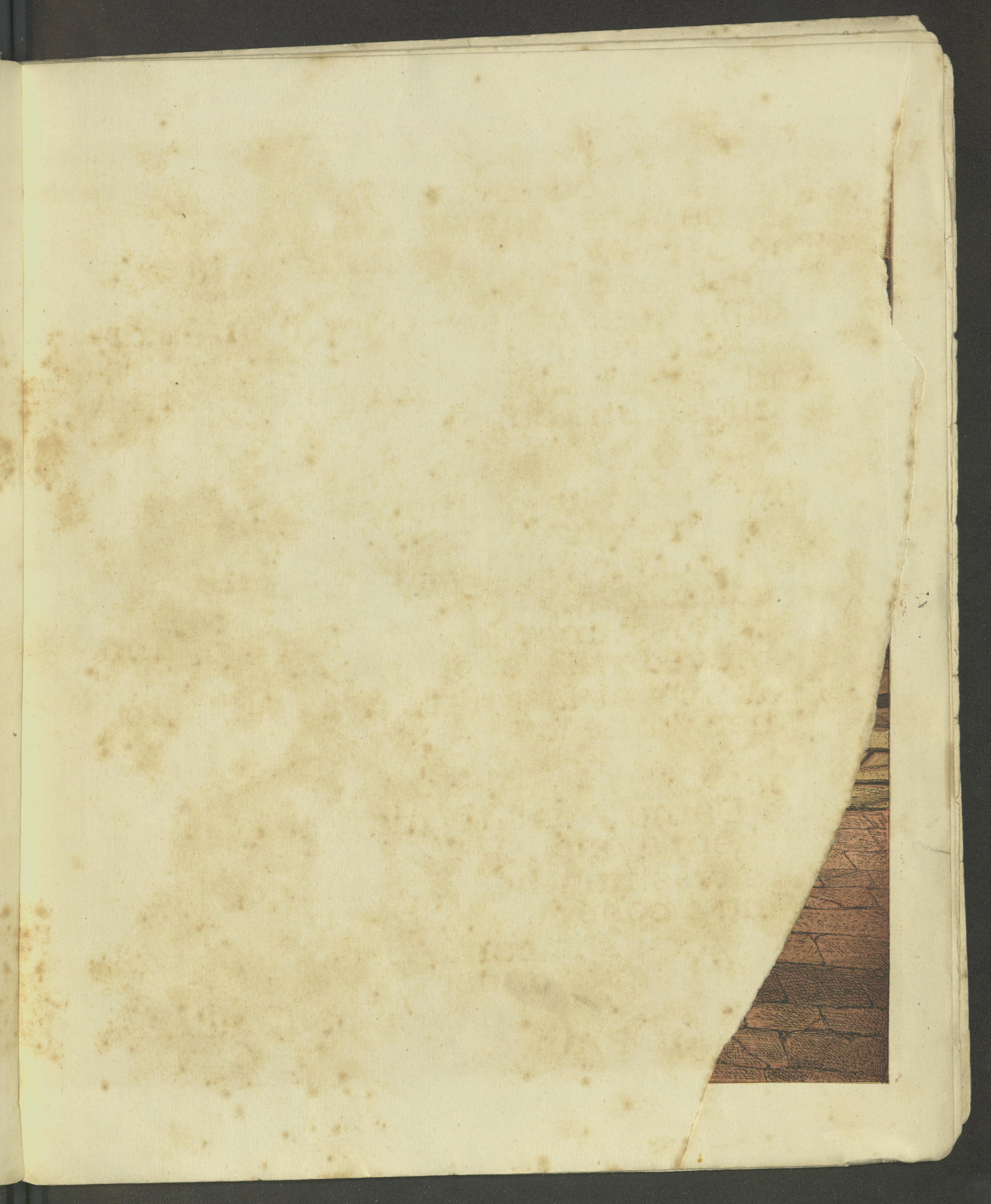
The tea stood to draw, and the toast
was done brown;
The Dame very pleased to her break-
fast sat down;
While Puss by her side on an arm-
chair sat up,
And lapp'd her warm milk from a
nice china cup.

Now Spot, the old house-dog, looked
on in amaze,
He'd never been used to such queer
cattish ways;
But Puss mew'd so sweetly, and
moved with such grace,
That Spot at last liked her, and licked
her white face.

The Dame went to market and left
them alone,
Puss washing her face, the dog pick-
ing a bone;
t when she came back Spot was
earning to dance
n Pussy, who once had had les-
ns in France.



Poor little Dame Trot had no money
to spare,
And only too often her cupboard was
bare;
Then kind Mrs. Pussy would catch
a nice fish,
And serve it for dinner upon a clean
dish

The rats and the mice, who wished
Pussy to please,
Were now never seen at the butter
or cheese;
The Dame daily found that their
numbers grew thinner,
For Puss ate a mouse every day for
her dinner.

If Puss had a weakness, I needs must
confess
'T was a Girl of the Period's fancy for
dress:
Her greatest desire a high chignon
and hat,
And a very short dress à la mode for a
cat.

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So one day when Dame Trot had gone
out to dine,
Puss dressed herself up, as she
thought, very fine,
And coaxed kind old Spot, who looked
at her with pride,
To play pony for her, and give her a
ride.

The Dame from her visit returning
home late,
Met this funny couple outside her
own gate,
And heartily laughed when she saw
her dear cat
Dressed up in a cloak and a chignon
and hat.

"You're quite a grand lady, Miss
Pussy," said she,
And Pussy affectedly answered, "Oui,
oui."
She thought it beneath her to utter a
mew,
While wearing a dress of a fashion so
new.

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Now Spot, who to welcome his mistress desired,
And to "company manners" had never aspired,
Jumped up to fawn on her,—and down came the cat,
And crushed in her tumble her feather and hat!

"Oh, Puss!" said Dame Trot, "what a very sad mess!
You'd best have remained in your natural dress;
The graces which Nature so kindly bestows,
Are more often hid than improved by fine clothes."

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